(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the time-frame within which the project would commence electricity generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) had prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Dikhu as a Multipurpose Project in Nagaland envisaging hydro power generation besides irrigation benefits. The DPR of the project having installed capacity of (3x40 = 120 MW) was sent to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) of CWC for its clearance. Meanwhile, Government of Nagaland has informed that they propose to drop the irrigation component and pursue it only as a hydro power project.

(c) Since the Government of Nagaland has yet to allocate the project to an agency for development, a time frame for electricity generation cannot be given.

Environmental Clearances for UMPPs

†1501. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to forests and environment laws, work related to six Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) and several other projects, beneficial for the people, have either not started or have got delayed as a result of which their cost has escalated;

(b) if so, whether approval from the Ministry of Environment and Forests to the projects of national importance would be expedited;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In respect of the Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs), which have either been awarded or where the bidding process has been initiated, the environment clearance has been received. As far as forest clearance is concerned, the same has been received for Sasan UMPP; for Mundra UMPP, in-principle forest clearance has been received and for Tilaiya UMPP, a revised application is to be submitted in view of change in land requirement. Further, according to the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), 27 thermal power projects, consisting of Central, State and private sector projects, are currently under process for environment clearance. Regarding cost escalation, according to the MoEF, no construction work, preliminary or otherwise, relating to the setting up of the project, may be undertaken till the environmental and/or site clearance is obtained.

(b) and (c) The power utilities make applications for grant of environment clearance to the MoEF directly. However, in case of delay in grant of environment/ forest clearance, the matter is taken up with the MoEF by Ministry of Power.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.